

In The Claims:

Cancel claims 5-7.

Amend Claim 13 as follows:

- B3
13. (Amended) A patterned porous structure comprising one or more layers of a porous structure having one or more areas of porous material and one or more areas of reduced porosity or non-porous material wherein the porous structure is formed of two or more layers and each of the layers have one or more areas of porous material and one or more areas of reduced porosity material formed therein and the areas of porous and reduced porosity material vary from layer to layer.

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the office action dated August 19, 2002 in the above identified application.

An extension of time in which to reply has been filed concurrently with this response.

Claim 13 has been indicated as containing allowable subject matter but depending from a rejected base claim. It has been rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Allowance is requested.

Claims 2, 3, 9, 14-16 and 21 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over FR 2 233 626 as set forth in the earlier Office action. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

FR 2 233 626 is directed to a fibrous absorbent surface structure, in particular flocked fibrous absorbent surfaces. These fibers are bonded to a nonporous sheet and the sheet is then subdivided into separate pads having areas of these flocked fibers. The areas are subdivided by lanes formed between the pads. They are designed to prevent lateral flow from one pad to another. These structures also require an impermeable solid support, usually containing an adhesive.

In contrast, the present invention provides a porous filtration structure that is initially porous throughout its entire structure and then has various sections rendered non-porous, so